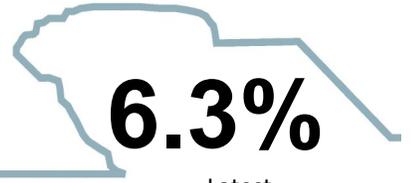


LABOR MARKET TRENDS



Latest
Unemployment Rate

Volume 1: Issue 7 August 2020

S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

LMI Division

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Employment Continues to Rise; Unemployment Rate Falls

Employment: The seasonally adjusted monthly survey of households, referencing the week of August 12th, estimated the number of South Carolinians working rose to 2,264,535, which yields an employment-population ratio of 54.8 percent.

- That is an increase of 18,532 people over July 2020.
- That is also a significant decrease of 52,248 people over August 2019.

Unemployment: Unemployment decreased to 152,936 people.

- That is a decrease of 59,966 people since July 2020 and a significant increase of 92,796 over August 2019.
- The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.3 percent over the month from July’s revised rate of 8.7 percent.

Labor force: The state’s estimated labor force (people working plus people not working but searching for work) decreased to 2,417,471.

- That is a decrease of 41,434 people over July 2020.
- That is an increase of 40,458 individuals over August 2019.
- The labor force participation rate in August 2020 was 58.5 percent, decreasing from 59.6 percent in July.

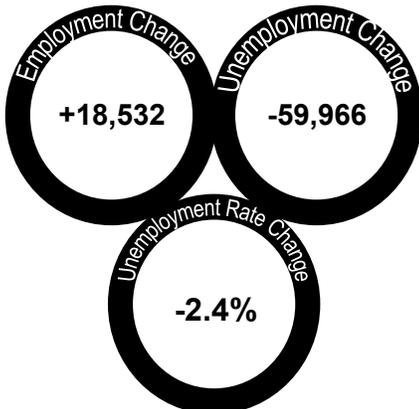
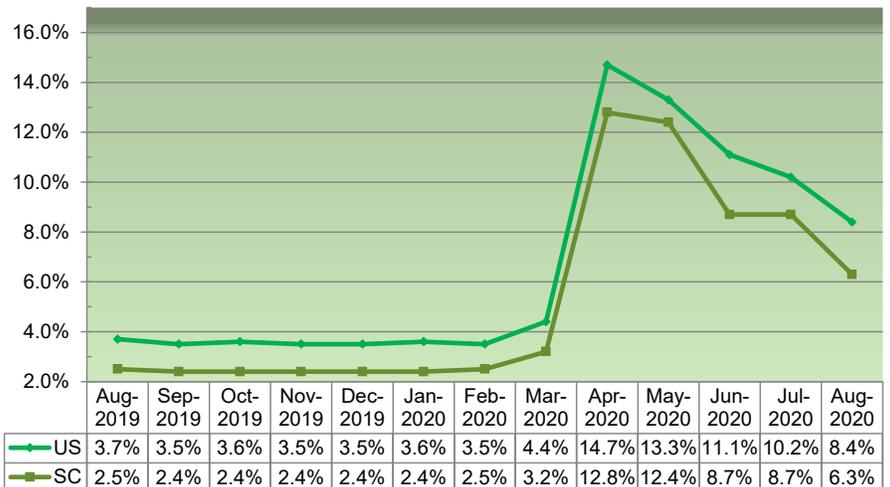
View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Economic Indicators

August 2020 - Seasonally Adjusted

	U.S.	S.C.
Labor Force	160,838,000	2,417,471
Employed	147,288,000	2,264,535
Unemployed	13,550,000	152,936
Unemployed Rate	8.4%	6.3%

South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
August 2019 - August 2020



LABOR MARKET TRENDS is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics by the LMI Division of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. The current month’s estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2019 benchmark. To subscribe to **LABOR MARKET TRENDS** or for additional information, please email LMICustomerService@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [LMI Customer Feedback Form](#).

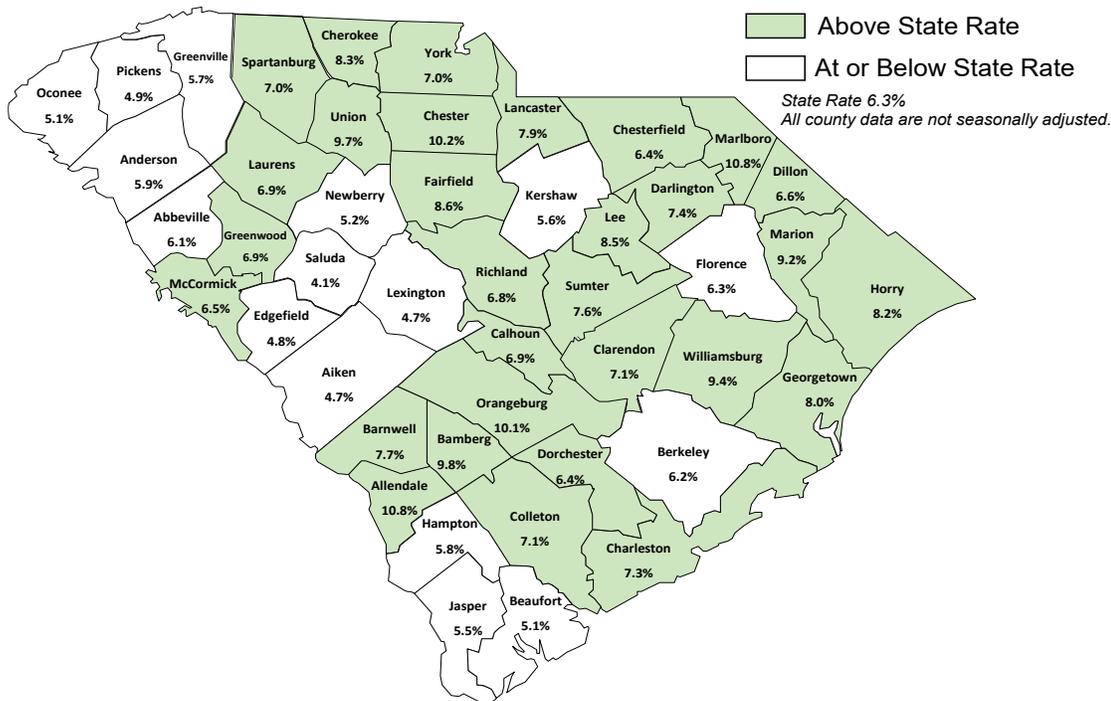
U.S. Unemployment Rates Are Mostly Lower in August; S.C. Rate Falls to 6.3 Percent, Ranked 15th Lowest in the Nation

Unemployment rates were lower in August in 41 states, higher in two states and stable in seven states and the District of Columbia. All 50 states and the District of Columbia had jobless rate increases from a year earlier. The national unemployment rate declined over the month to 8.4 percent, while South Carolina’s unemployment rate fell to 6.3 percent, ranking 15th lowest of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 40 states and the District of Columbia and was unchanged in 10 states and the District of Columbia in August. Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia had over-the-year decreases in nonfarm payroll employment in August, while Idaho was unchanged. The largest year-ago job declines occurred in California (-1,598,200), New York (-1,214,500) and Texas (-616,600). The largest year ago percentage declines occurred in Hawaii (-16.1 percent), New York (-12.4 percent), and Massachusetts (-10.9 percent).

August Unemployment Rates By County

County unemployment rates fell across the state as the not seasonally adjusted, statewide unemployment rate dropped significantly in August. Rates ranged from a low of 4.1 percent in Saluda County to a high of 10.8 percent in Allendale and Marlboro counties.



August 2020

State Unemployment Rates

Nebraska	4.0
Utah	4.1
Idaho	4.2
South Dakota	4.8
Vermont	4.8
North Dakota	5.0
Alabama	5.6
Georgia	5.6
Montana	5.6
Oklahoma	5.7
Arizona	5.9
Iowa	6.0
Virginia	6.1
Wisconsin	6.2
South Carolina	6.3
Indiana	6.4
New Hampshire	6.5
North Carolina	6.5
Wyoming	6.6
Colorado	6.7
Texas	6.8
Kansas	6.9
Maine	6.9
Maryland	6.9
Missouri	7.0
Alaska	7.4
Arkansas	7.4
Florida	7.4
Minnesota	7.4
Kentucky	7.6
Louisiana	7.6
Oregon	7.7
Mississippi	7.9
Connecticut	8.1
United States	8.4
District of Columbia	8.5
Tennessee	8.5
Washington	8.5
Michigan	8.7
Delaware	8.9
Ohio	8.9
West Virginia	8.9
Pennsylvania	10.3
New Jersey	10.9
Illinois	11.0
Massachusetts	11.3
New Mexico	11.3
California	11.4
Hawaii	12.5
New York	12.5
Rhode Island	12.8
Nevada	13.2

Economic Indicators				
Average Hours & Earnings				
	United States (SA)	Monthly Change	S.C. (Unadj.)	Monthly Change
Manufacturing				
Avg Weekly Earnings	\$1,156.80	\$14.23	\$915.49	\$17.60
Avg Weekly Hours	40.0	0.3	41.5	1.0
Avg Hourly Wages	\$28.92	\$0.14	\$22.06	-\$0.11

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends For August—Seasonally Adjusted

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 19,700 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,092,200.

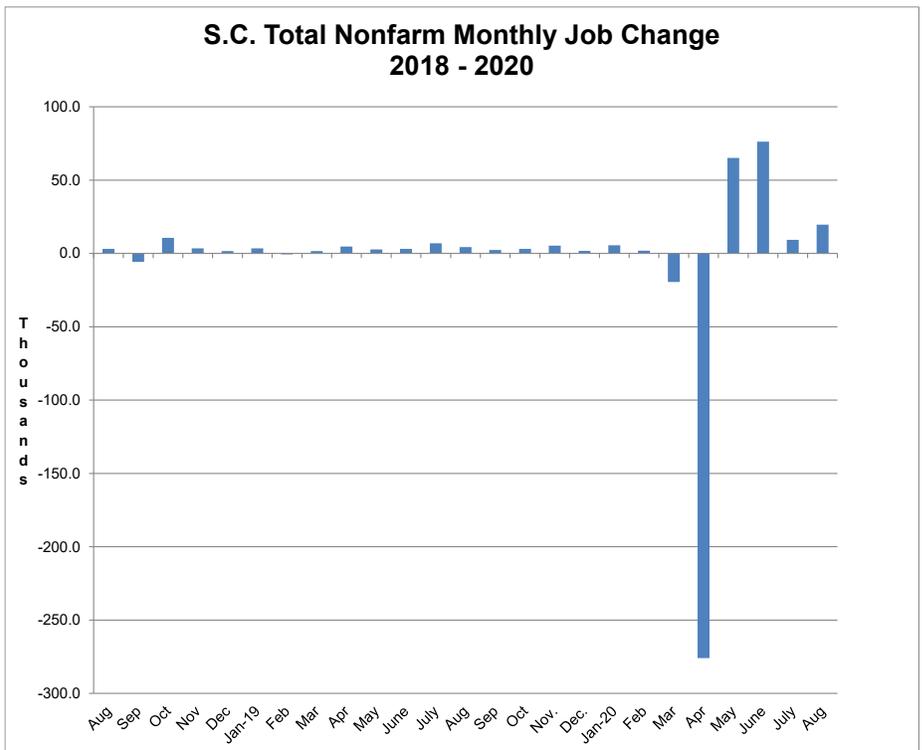
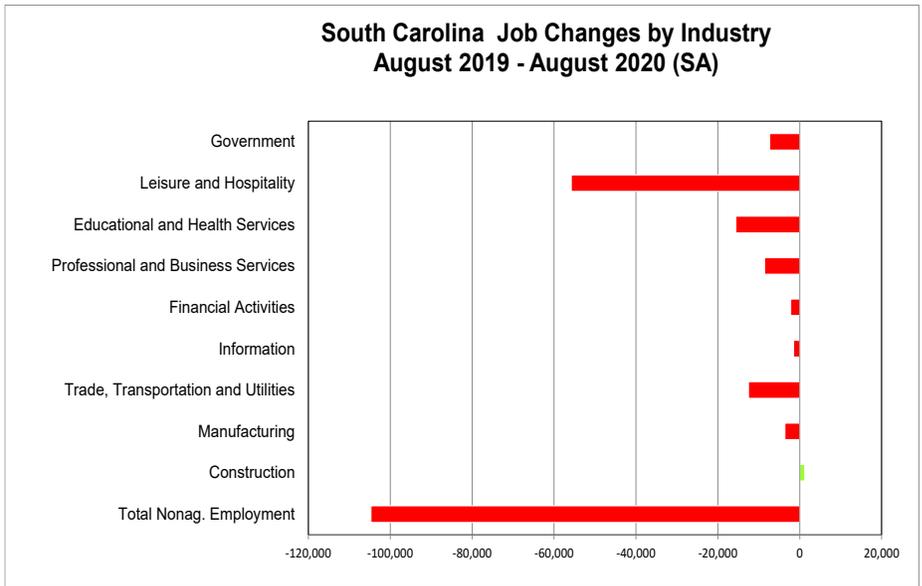
Industries reporting gains were Government (+10,900); Professional and Business Services (+5,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,100); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,800); Construction (+1,100); Financial Activities (+500) and Other Services (+500). Retail Trade increased (+3,600) over the month.

Decreases were noticed in the Education and Health Services (-4,000); Information (-400) and Manufacturing (-200) industries.

From August 2019 to August 2020, South Carolina’s economy has lost 104,700 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

Only the Other Services (+1,400) and Construction (+1,200) industries reported gains over the year.

Decreases were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-55,800); Education and Health Services (-15,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-12,500); Professional and Business Services (-8,600); Government (-7,300); Manufacturing (-3,600); Financial Activities (-2,200) and Information (-1,500). Retail Trade decreased (-6,600) over the year.



Economic Indicators (August 2020)		
Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)		
MSA	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Sumter MSA	1.87%	-4.02%
Greenville MSA	0.96%	-3.36%
Charleston MSA	0.75%	-7.20%
Columbia MSA	-0.05%	-5.63%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina Economic Indicators



S.C. Job Postings by Industry, August 2020

NAICS Code	Industry	Job Postings
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	9,692
44-45	Retail Trade	6,775
72	Accommodation and Food Services	3,802
31-33	Manufacturing	2,832
61	Educational Services	2,417
52	Finance and Insurance	2,411
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,398
92	Public Administration	2,174
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management	1,662
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	1,361
23	Construction	1,099
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,073
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,066
51	Information	711
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	425
42	Wholesale Trade	397
22	Utilities	140
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	108
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	82
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	53

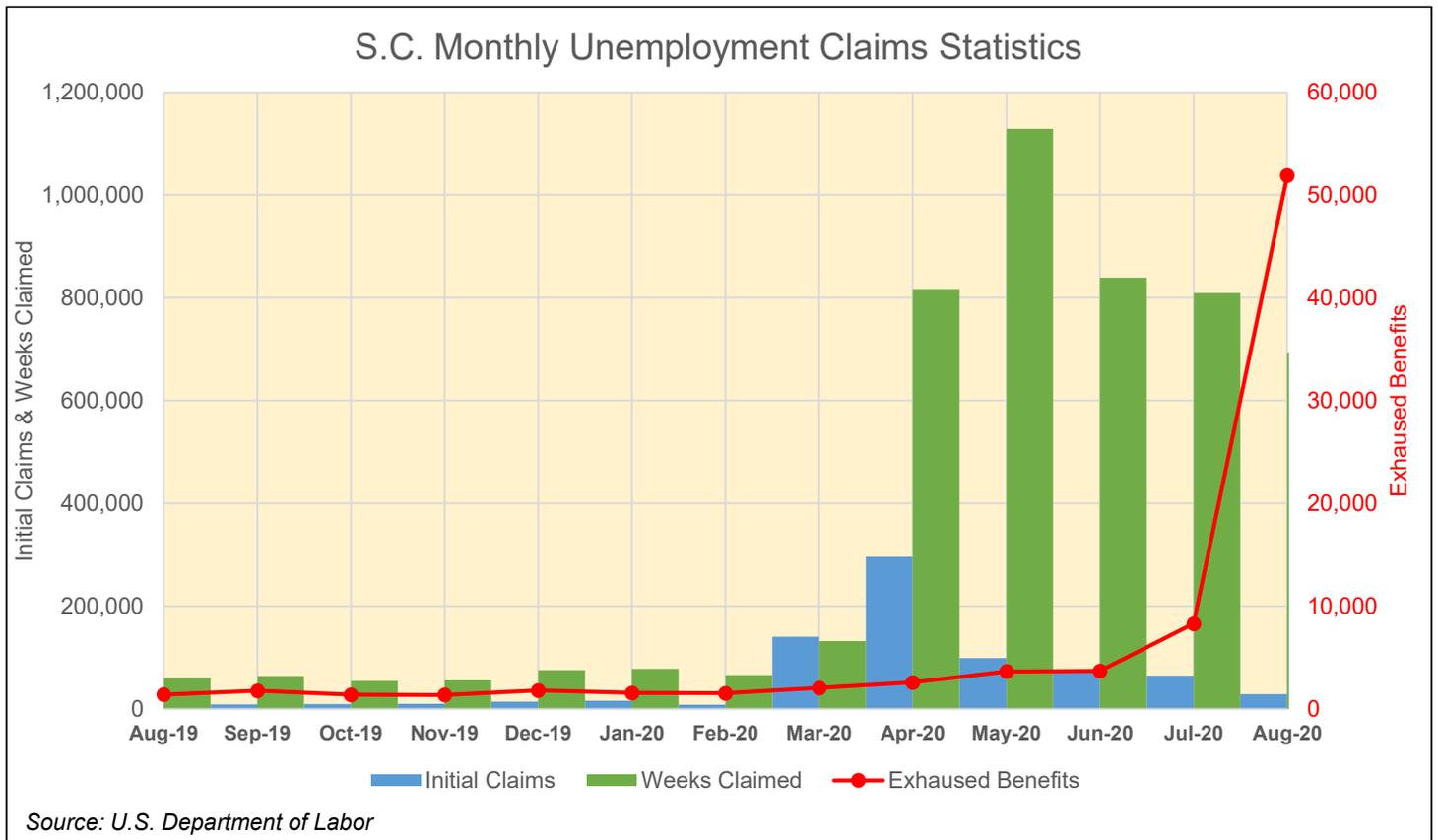
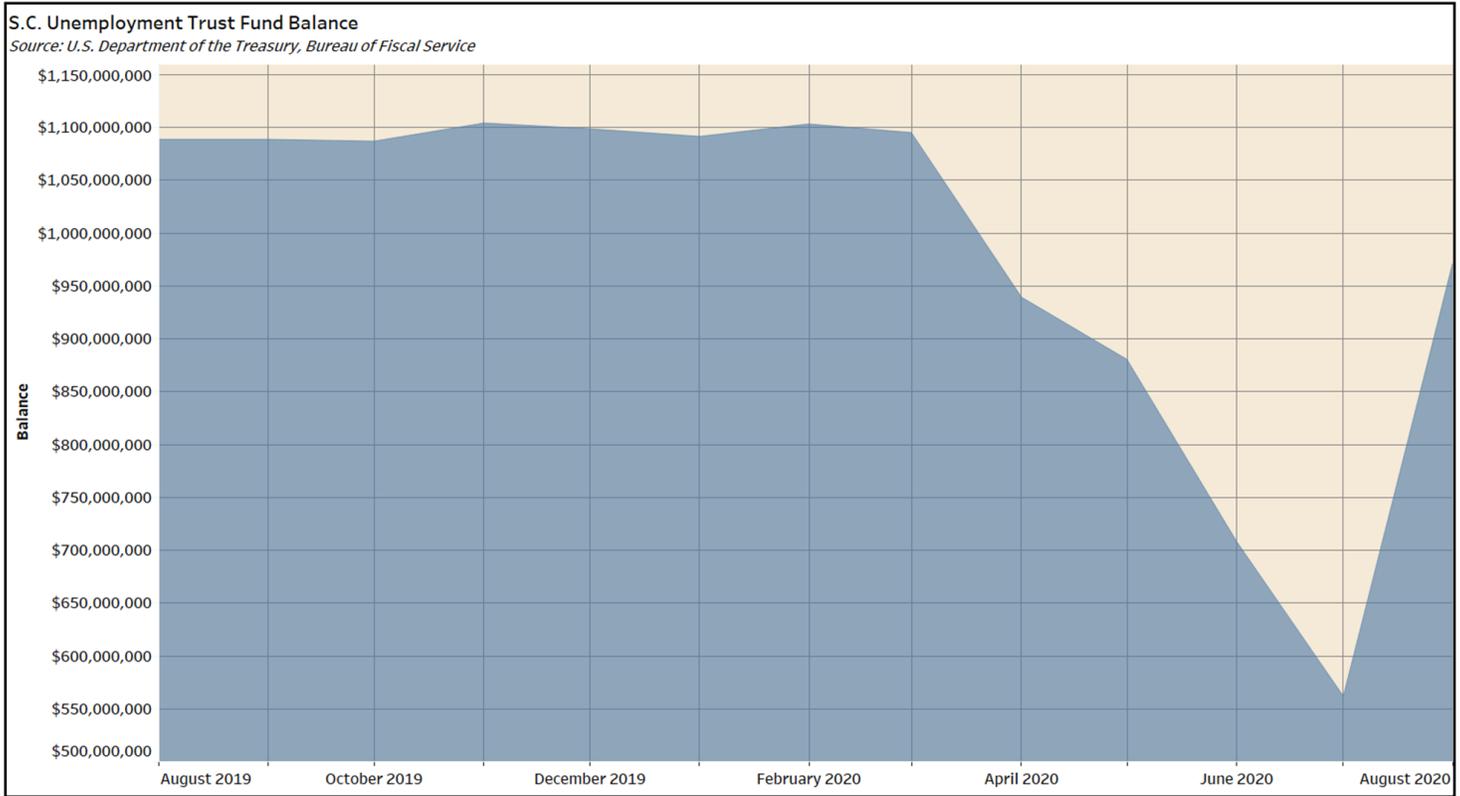
Source: Labor Insight Jobs (Burning Glass Technologies)

S.C. Average Weekly Wage by Industry Group, 2020Q1

Industry Group	Avg Wkly Wage	Perc Chg from Yr Ago
Total, All Industries	\$921	2.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	\$831	-3.0%
Construction	\$1,064	3.7%
Manufacturing	\$1,184	-3.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	\$831	-0.8%
Information	\$1,335	4.8%
Financial Activities	\$1,489	6.5%
Professional and Business Services	\$1,067	7.2%
Education and Health Services	\$931	5.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	\$360	3.7%
Other Services	\$680	4.9%
Public Administration	\$914	2.2%

Source: DEW, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

South Carolina Economic Indicators (Continued)



Growing and Declining Occupations, 2018-2028

The latest available statewide occupational employment projections over the 10-year period 2018-2028 were released in July 2020. Overall, all occupations are projected to grow by 9.2 percent over the period with 296,500 job openings per year.

The fastest growing occupations in percentage terms, that require education beyond high school, with at least 100 job openings per year include:

- Software Developers, Applications
- Information Security Analysts
- Physician Assistants
- Industrial Engineers
- Massage Therapists
- Market Research Analysts
- Nurse Practitioners
- Speech-Language Pathologists
- Veterinary Technologists and Technicians
- Medical Assistants
- Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary
- Physical Therapists

This listing is dominated by the medical field but includes those in information technology as well. Of all occupations, those requiring a master's degree are growing fastest at 12.4 percent, followed by those requiring a postsecondary award at 11.6 percent and those requiring an associates or bachelor's degree at 11.3 percent.

The listing of the fastest declining occupations highlights positions across the economy of South Carolina as shown below:

- Respiratory Therapy Technicians
- Parking Enforcement Workers
- Telephone Operators
- Cutters and Trimmers, Hand
- Word Processors and Typists
- Fallers
- Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers
- Desktop Publishers
- Photographic Process Workers and Processing Machine Operators
- Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service
- Data Entry Keyers

Declining occupations with the highest employment include:

- Cashiers
- Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive
- Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers
- Packers and Packagers, Hand
- Cooks, Fast Food
- Correctional Officers and Jailers

[Click here](#) for access to the LMI website. Under Data Trends menu, choose Employment and Wage Data-Occupation Data-Long-term Occupational Employment Projections to obtain data.